

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7337
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

S E C R E T CAIRO 10535

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EG US WG
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN OVERTURES FOR ARMS PURCHASES
FROM WEST GERMANY

1. IN STRICT CONFIDENCE FRG AMBASSADOR STELTZER TOLD ME TWO EVENINGS AGO THAT HE HAS NOW BEEN APPROACHED TWICE BY FAHMY ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF FRG SELLING ARMS TO EGYPT. SPECIFICALLY, EGYPT WANTED ANTI-TANK MISSILES, LEOPARD TANK ENGINES, SOME MOTOR TORPEDO BOATS AND VARIOUS OTHER EQUIPMENT, WHICH HE COULD NOT RECALL. HE HAS TOLD FAHMY THAT IT IS FRG POLICY NOT TO SELL ARMS TO AREAS WHERE THERE IS HIGH TENSION. FAHMY HAS URGED RECONSIDERATION OF THIS POLICY AND STELTZER IS VERY MINDFUL OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS MATTER TO EGYPTIAN-WESTER GERMAN RELATIONS.

2. HE HAS SUGGESTED TO HIS GOVERNMENT THAT IT CONSULT WITH US ABOUT THE EGYPTIAN REQUEST. HE RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF A QUADRAPARTITE CONSULTATION TO ALSO INCLUDE UK AND FRANCE. I TOLD STELTZER EGYPTIANS HAVE ALSO TOLD VARIOUS VISITING CONGRESSIONAL GROUPS OF THEIR DESIRE TO PURCHASE ARMS FROM US, BUT THAT NO POLICY DECISION HAS AS YET BEEN REACHED ON THE MATTER. I POINTED OUT SOME OF THE PROBLEMS THAT WE WILL HAVE WITH THIS MATTER.

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Message Attributes

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